

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**Routing Slip**

TO: *1* *2* *3* *4* *5* *6* *7* *8* *9* *10* *11* *12* *13* *14* *15* *16* *17* *18* *19* *20* *21* *22*

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS		X		
5	DDI	X			
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC		X		
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OEA				
16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20	C/ACIS		X		
21	SA/NPI		X		
22					

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks:*JBK*
Executive Secretary

11 Aug 82

Date

3-37 (10-81)

~~SECRET~~

Executive Registry
82-1969

No. NSDD #51

COPY 6

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

Notice

The attached document contains classified National Security Council Information. It is to be read and discussed only by persons authorized by law.

Your signature acknowledges you are such a person and you promise you will show or discuss information contained in the document only with persons who are authorized by law to have access to this document.

Persons handling this document acknowledge he or she knows and understands the security law relating thereto and will cooperate fully with any lawful investigation by the United States Government into any unauthorized disclosure of classified information contained herein.

AUG 11 9 14 AM '82

ER

Access List

DATE	NAME	DATE	NAME
8/11/82			

25X1

L-117
NSDD - 51

SECRET

Executive Registry

82-1969

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SYSTEM II
90542

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
SECRET ATTACHMENTS

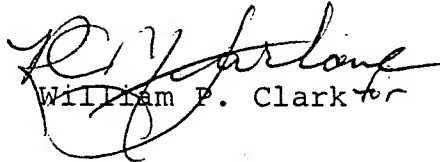
August 10, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: National Security Decision Directive on US Nuclear
Testing Limitations Policy

The President has formally approved the attached National Security
Decision Directive on US Nuclear Testing Limitations Policy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:


William P. Clark

Attachment

Tab A NSDD 51

cy 6 of 8 copies

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
SECRET ATTACHMENTS

SECRET

A

SECRETSYSTEM II
90542THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONSECRET

August 10, 1982

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 51U.S. NUCLEAR TESTING LIMITATIONS POLICY

As a result of the National Security Council meeting of July 19, 1982, on nuclear testing limitations, it has been decided that a Comprehensive Test Ban remains a long-term U.S. objective, but that in the near term, our priority efforts must be directed toward achieving effective verification measures for the Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions treaties. (S)

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Nuclear testing is indispensable to a credible nuclear deterrent. The security of the United States and our Allies depends upon a nuclear deterrent and the need to maintain a reliable stockpile and robust technology base. At the same time, there are concerns regarding our ability to monitor Soviet compliance with a Comprehensive Test Ban, and even assuming Soviet compliance, there are reasons to believe that a Comprehensive Test Ban could create asymmetries in the Soviet Union's favor. Therefore, at this time the United States should neither attempt to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty nor resume negotiations with the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom on a Comprehensive Test Ban. (S)

U.S. policy continues to endorse a Comprehensive Test Ban as a long-term objective. This is to be achieved in the context of broad, deep, and verifiable arms reductions, expanded confidence building measures, improved verification capabilities that would justify confidence in Soviet compliance with a Comprehensive Test Ban; and at a time when a nuclear deterrent is no longer as essential an element, as currently, for international security and stability. We will continue to discuss issues of verification and compliance in the nuclear test ban working group of the Committee on Disarmament. (S)

Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaties

Our security requires that we not agree to an unverifiable treaty. Since we cannot at present effectively verify the Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaties, we should not, at

SECRET

DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

cy. 6 of 8 copies**SECRET**

SECRET

SECRET

2

this time, seek their ratification. While continuing observance of the 150-kiloton threshold of these treaties, we should, therefore, seek Soviet agreement to negotiate effective verification measures in new protocols to the Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions treaties. (S)

Over the long term, high yield tests may be necessary to maintain the U.S. nuclear deterrent. Should an urgent national security need for tests above 150 kilotons be identified in the future, appropriate recommendations should be forwarded to the President for decision. (S)

Interdepartmental Group Work Program

The Interdepartmental Group should complete a study of specific negotiation proposals on verification procedures designed to improve significantly our verification capabilities. This study should be forwarded to the National Security Council by October 1, 1982. (S)

The Interdepartmental Group should prepare an up-to-date net assessment of the effects of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty on the United States/Soviet Union nuclear balance. This assessment should be forwarded to the National Security Council by December 10, 1982. (S)

Ronald Reagan

SECRET

SECRET